

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the final Official Action mailed October 6, 2003. In the present paper, Applicant has amended claim 7 by re-presenting that claim in independent form, incorporating the limitations of base claims 1, 3 and 6. Claim 7 had been objected to by the Examiner as depending on a rejected base claim, but held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has further amended claims 2, 4, 5, 7-9 and 13 to make all claims remaining in the case directly or indirectly dependent on allowable claim 7.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3, 6 and 14-17. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7-13 are now presented for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant submits that all claims now in the case are in condition for issuance, and earnestly requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Applicant has filed, under separate cover, a continuation application to pursue the currently rejected claims.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any matter concerning this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Date: 2/6/04